

Hepatitis A

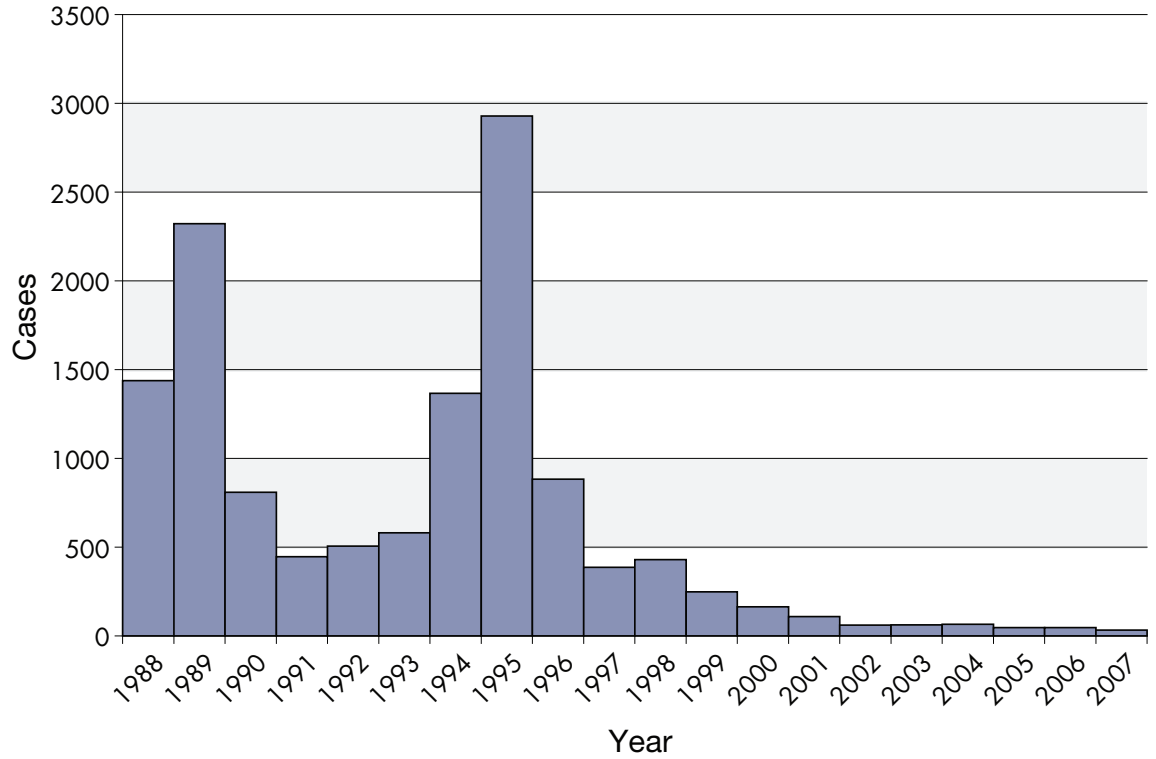
Hepatitis A is a liver disease caused by the hepatitis A virus, which infects humans via fecal-oral transmission. In Oregon, hepatitis A can occur in situations ranging from isolated cases of disease to statewide outbreaks.

Good personal hygiene and proper sanitation can help prevent hepatitis A. Vaccines are recommended for long-term prevention of hepatitis A in all Oregon children 1 year of age and older, as well as for adults in high-risk groups. Since licensure of the vaccine in 1995–1996, rates of infection have declined nationally and in Oregon, one of the higher incidence states.

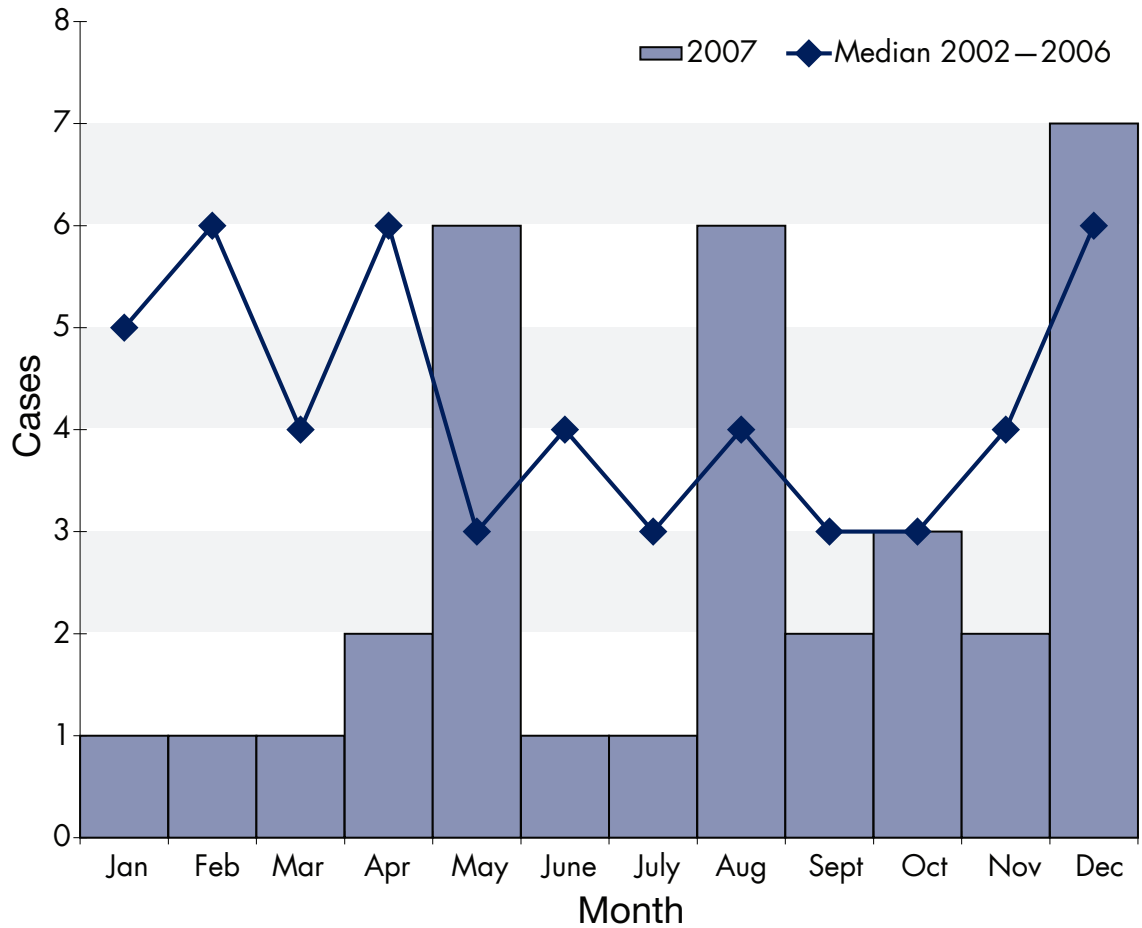
In 2007, Oregon adopted the CDC case definition; laboratory positive, asymptomatic infections are no longer reportable. Recent changes in post-exposure prophylaxis include vaccination instead of immune globulin for immune-competent contacts aged 1–40 years. For those over 40 years of age, or with immune-compromising conditions, immune globulin is still recommended.

In 2007, Oregon logged 33 cases of acute hepatitis A. No outbreaks were recorded. Nine (27%) of the 33 cases were acquired by venturing outside of Oregon to countries with high rates of hepatitis A. Such persons placing themselves at elevated risk should receive a dose of hepatitis A vaccine as soon as travel is considered. Completion of the hepatitis A vaccination series (administered according to the licensed schedule) is recommended for long-term protection.

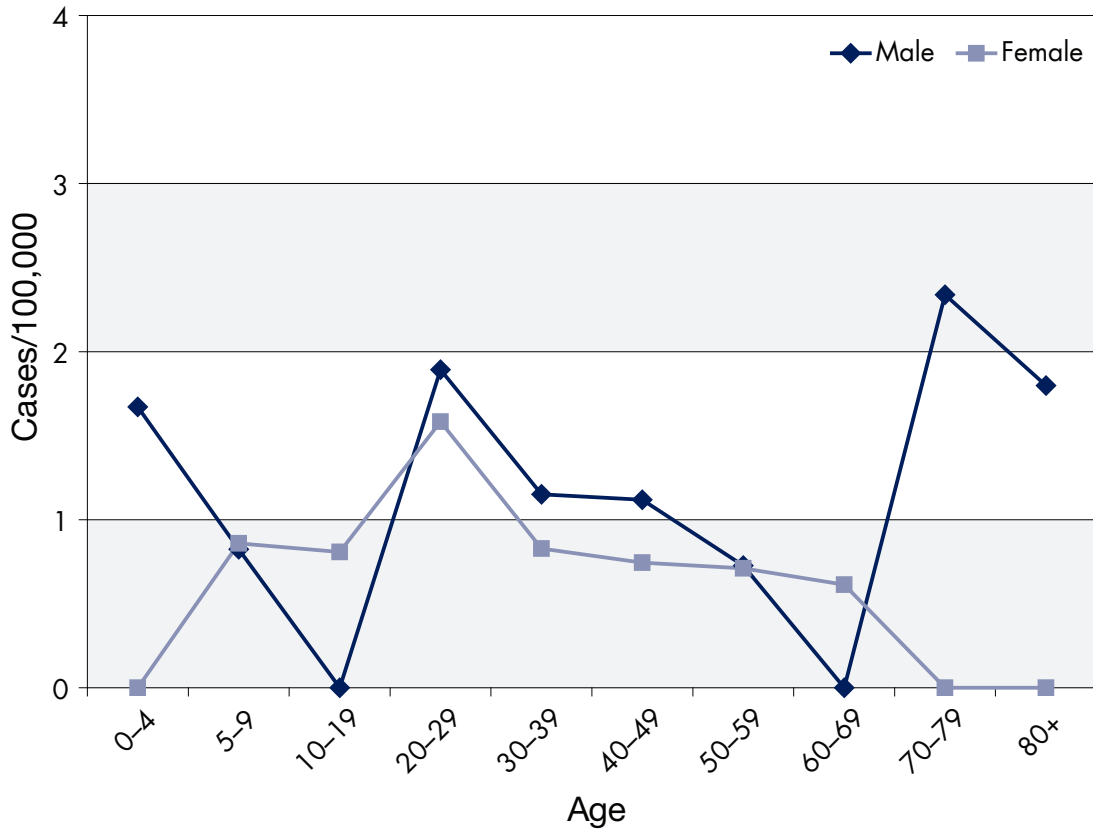
Hepatitis A by year: Oregon, 1988–2007



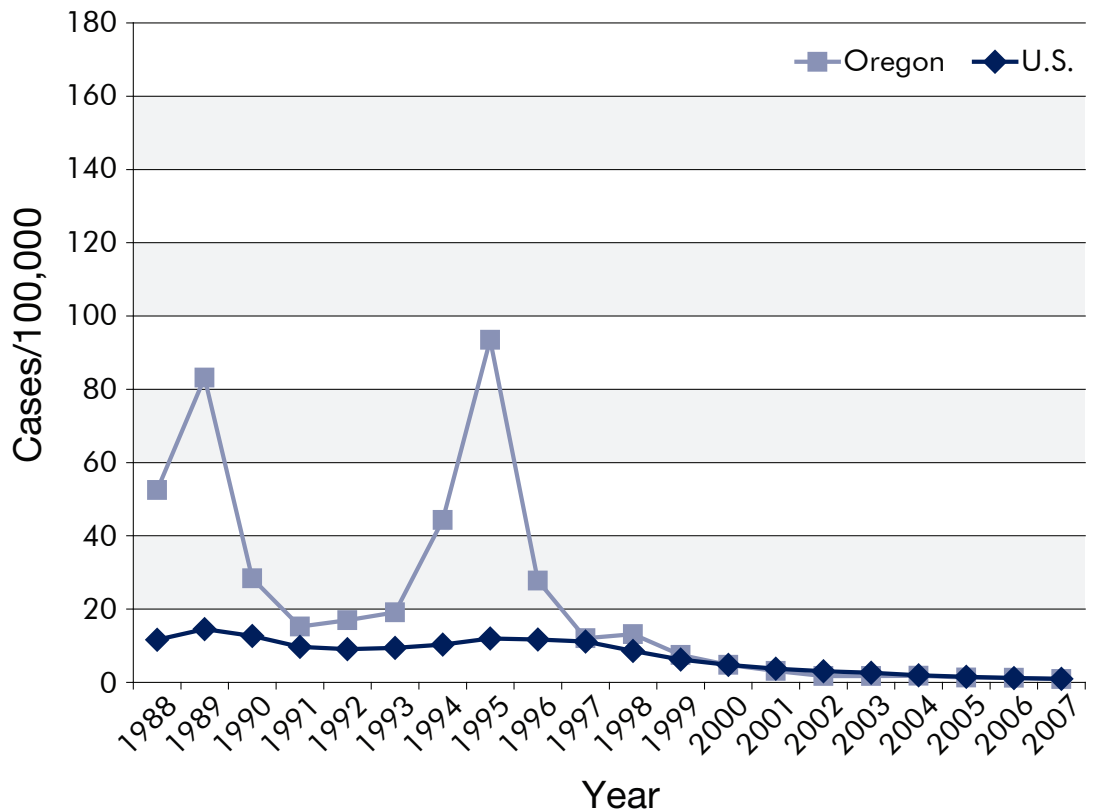
Hepatitis A by onset month: Oregon, 2007



Incidence of hepatitis A by age and sex: Oregon, 2007



Incidence of hepatitis A: Oregon vs. nationwide, 1988–2007



Incidence of hepatitis A by county of residence: Oregon, 1998–2007

